

THE SOCIETY OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS AND MARINE ENGINEERS
601 PAVONIA AVENUE, SUITE 400, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07306

AGENDA #15

Report of the
Electronic Bulletin Board Ad Hoc Group
(a.k.a. Electronic Media Committee)
for presentation to the Executive Committee
on Wednesday, June 21st, 1995

SNAME Web Site Implementation

The basic plan for the SNAME Web site still closely follows the original plan for the Electronic Bulletin Board as prepared by the SD-2 Panel back in 1989. Our priorities at present are to implement an initial Web site by the October SNAME Annual meeting, with a demonstration to the Executive Committee at the September Meeting. A current outline for the content of the Web site is as follows:

- Topic Forums (similar to the BBS)
- Library File Downloads (similar to the BBS)
- SNAME Directory On-Line
- Publications
 - Description of Publications and Ordering Information
 - Search-able Index of SNAME Publications (without Abstracts)
 - Authors Instructions
 - Standard Word Processor Templates for Authors
- General SNAME Information
 - Membership Information & Membership Application Form
 - Purpose of the Society / Bylaws / Code of Ethics
- SNAME People
 - HQ Staff, responsibilities, and contact numbers and e-mail addresses
 - Committee Chairs and contacts
- Calendar of Events
- Section Activities
 - Section Backgrounds / Section Officers and Contacts
 - Section Meeting Schedule and Locations
- T&R
 - Panel Chairs and Contacts
- Links to other Maritime World Wide Web Sites

The priorities for the remainder of the year and for next year are to be accessed based on user feedback and comments. At this point the plan is to proceed with the development of the following:

- Adding Abstracts to the Publications Index
- Publishing of Full Paper Texts of all new Publications
- Jobs Section (Help Wanted and Resume Posting)
- Publishing full texts of all Committee and Panel Minutes
- On-Line Registration for SNAME Events
- On-Line Publication Ordering
- On-Line Membership Applications

Progress on the Web Site

We now have a preliminary SNAME Web site up and running on the server at the Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC). Progress has been a bit slower than we had anticipated and schedules are difficult to access when utilizing 100% volunteers. Access to the Web site is currently protected by password and is generally limited to members of our Group. (Any members of the Executive Committee who are interested in previewing the Web site should contact the undersigned for a username and password.)

Promotional Plan

Promotion of the new Web site will generally focus on the demonstration at the Annual Meeting. Plans currently call for a presentation and live demonstration following the President's Luncheon and General Business Session. The Group also recommends that the Executive Committee consider promotion of the Web site at the SNAME booth, as well as through notices and articles in SNAME publications. Various members of the Group are available to conduct the demonstration, staff the booth, and help prepare promotional materials.

As had been anticipated, all of the major on-line services now provide access to the Web. (CompuServe, America On-Line, Prodigy, etc.) This provides for reasonably economical access to internet e-mail and the Web, even for relatively inexperienced computer users. In order to promote the use of the SNAME Web site by computer novices, we may want to consider decimation of information on the various option to connect to the internet and the Web.

BBS Status

Following the April Executive Committee Meeting, the Group was polled regarding what should be done regarding the funding of the BBS and the transition to the Web site. It was the general view of the majority of the members that the current funding of approximately \$760 per month should be maintained to keep the BBS operational until the Web site goes on-line. If possible the Group favored implementing the most popular features of the BBS on the Web site as soon as possible. Early implementation could possibly lead to a transition to the Web site prior to the October Annual Meeting. Many members of the Group felt the active BBS users are likely to become the initial core of Web site users also, and that SNAME should not prematurely drop the BBS until the Web site can replace these services.

It is also to be noted that several members of the SD-2 T&R Panel and the Chesapeake Section are attempting to develop corporate sponsorship of the BBS to continue its operation by the Chesapeake Section, and perhaps use the BBS as a means of providing inexpensive local access to the internet for Section members.

Database Development

The two databases planned to be initially implemented on the Web site are, the membership database, and the publication database.

The electronic membership database currently exists and can be implemented fairly easily on the Web site. We currently envision that there would only be password protected access to download the full database (Section Officers, Committee Chairs, etc.), and that typical access to the database would be to a single member record at a time. Web users would be able to correct and amend their entries directly from the Web site, which would generate a e-mail message to headquarters, analogous to the correction postcard in the current Membership Directory.

The greatest single expense for the Web site, and perhaps the greatest single benefit, is the development of the publication and abstracts database. The current Index of SNAME Publication

does not exist in electronic format and will need to be scanned or re-keyed into a computer database. Budgetary estimates for development of the publications database for the 20-30,000 entries are as follows:

Alternate 1

- | | |
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| a. Author and Subject Publication Database (without abstracts) | |
| \$10,000 | |
| b. Subsequent addition of Abstracts | \$25,000 |

Alternate 2

- | | |
|--|--|
| Author and Subject Publication Database (with abstracts) | |
| \$30,000 | |

Please note the currently approved level of funding (\$10,000 through September) is not adequate to proceed with even Alternative 1a, due to the concurrent cost of maintenance funding for the BBS.

Developments in Electronic Media and Electronic Communications

Working with Jaime Horowicz, the new Manager of Publications, we have begun to explore the various interrelated options for publishing via traditional paper, the Web, or potentially CD ROM. We are moving towards the development of standard author templates in the commonly used word processing program formats. It is intended to eventually move to printed, and electronic publishing from the original authors source files thereby reducing re-typesetting labor and potential delays. There are also several "universal document" electronic formats that we are investigating, which are rapidly gaining in popularity and permit viewing electronics document on all types of computer platforms and operating systems. The recent Joint California Sections Meeting in Long Beach, experimented with publishing all symposium papers in Adobe Acrobat format, which is one of the popular "universal document" formats.

Working with Eileen Bartell, Membership and Systems Administrator, we have helped to assist headquarters in setting up internet e-mail connections and access to the Web. We anticipate that many of the functions of the SNAME Web site will be directly tied to generating internet e-mail communications between SNAME staff members and the Web server. This integration is crucial to the long term maintenance and continuous improvement in SNAME's Web presence.

Action Requested of the Executive Committee

1. Endorse of development plan for going on line with a SNAME Web site prior to the Annual Meeting and a demonstration to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.
2. Endorse our preference to maintain the BBS at minimum funding level of \$760/month until the Web site is operational (estimated September time frame).
3. Endorse our promotional plan which includes making a presentation / demonstration at the Annual Meeting , and to have space at the SNAME booth.
4. Provide guidance regarding the priority, extent, and level of funding to be provided for the development of the Publication Database.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Tagg
Chairman